

REMARKS**Overview**

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. The present response is an earnest effort to place all claims in proper form for immediate allowance.

Issues Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-5 and 9-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by UK Patent No. 2,234,837 to Taylor. The Applicants respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Applicants' claimed invention in independent method claim 1 requires "a washing machine, having . . . a detergent reservoir containing detergent" and the step "automatically transferring the selected quantity of detergent from the reservoir to the tub during the wash cycle of the machine." Also, independent apparatus claim 9 requires "a detergent reservoir for holding detergent" and "a pump operatively connected to the payment means and to the detergent reservoir to automatically pump a selected quantity of detergent from the reservoir to the tub, the selected quantity corresponding to the monetary payment."

The UK '837 Patent, contrary to the Examiner's assertion on page 2, paragraph 2 of the Office Action, does not disclose a detergent reservoir for holding detergent, a pump operatively connected to the payment means and to the detergent reservoir to automatically pump a selected quantity of detergent reservoir to the tub, or an automatic transfer of detergent. As the Examiner recognizes, these features are "not shown" in any of the figures of the UK '837 Patent. Moreover, these features are not disclosed in the Abstract as asserted. Finally, page 6, last paragraph, makes it clear that the UK '837 Patent does not disclose automatically pumping detergent from a reservoir but in stark contrast merely provides for immediately purchasing soap, "a detergent of some kind to be used in the washing process or for a further service" (*Emphasis added*). There is no disclosure as to where such detergent is purchased from, and no suggestion that the detergent is present in the machine for purchase, or automatically pumped from a reservoir in the machine to the tub.

One of ordinary skill in the art would NOT recognize the UK '837 patent as associated with a free standing washing machine that has a reservoir that automatically pumps detergent into a wash tank. In fact, the UK '837 patent provides little indication to one of ordinary skill in the art how detergent is dispensed and one of ordinary skill in the art may interpret this as receiving detergent from a free standing dispenser which the user would then have to carry to the washing machine, open the lid and dump into the laundry wash water as commonly done in laundry mats. Accordingly, the rejection to claims 1 and 9 should be withdrawn. As claims 2-8 depend from claim 1 and 10-15 depend from claim 9, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections should be withdrawn as well.

Issues Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the UK '837 Patent. Due to the remarks regarding independent claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections should be withdrawn as well.

Issues Surrounding Apparently Unexamined Claim 6

Claim 6 was indicated to be rejected in the Office Action Summary but was not discussed in the remarks. Claim 6 is allowable as it further distinguishes Applicants' invention from UK '837 Patent because it requires the additional step "making a second monetary payment to a machine corresponding to a selected quantity of a laundry additive to be used during the operation of the machine." The UK '837 Patent is silent as to making a second monetary payment to the machine. Therefore, Applicants' claimed invention is not anticipated by UK '837 Patent or made obvious thereby.

Thus, if the Examiner had intended to reject claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) or 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) it should be appropriately withdrawn.

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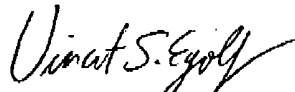
Applicants note that the Examiner has not indicated a review of the initial Information Disclosure Statement submitted by the Applicants with the application.

Conclusion

No fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this amendment; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 26-0084.

Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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